

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON
11 DECEMBER 2012 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT
HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr Mrs W Smith (Chair), Cllr I Bond, Cllr B Briars, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr Ms S Mulchrone,
Cllr S Watkins, Cllr G Wilson
Louise Wilcox – Deputy Town Clerk
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant
Members of the public - 5

Also present: Cllr D Lawrence

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr R Skinner

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – there were no Disclosable Pecuniary interests declared.
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – Cllr Ian Bond declared an interest in item 6e as listed on the agenda.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a. Members received the minutes of the Public Land and Open Spaces meeting held on 11 September 2012.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Public Land and Open Spaces meeting held on 11 September 2012 – there were no matters arising.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Correspondence from Biggleswade Bowls Club

Correspondence was received from Biggleswade Bowls Club requesting permission to open the green for play on the 1 April 2013.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council grant this request providing that this does not impact on Town Council staff with regards to maintenance etc.

b. Public Consultation for Outdoor Access Improvement Plan 2013-2023

Members are asked to comment on the above Public Consultation which started on 22 October. The full plan, a summary document and an online questionnaire are available on the website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations then go to: 'Have your say on getting out in the Countryside' (Committee Members are asked to view these documents before this meeting on 11 Dec 2012). Alternatively, a copy is available to view in Town Council office

The closing date for responses is **18 January 2013**.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Members would pass any comments to the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk before 18 January 2013.

c. Request from the Dan Albone Memorial Group

Correspondence was received from the above group who would like to erect a Monument to Dan Albone and are enquiring whether Town Council would agree to the idea in principle.

They would like to use the small area near the old cottage that stood in the entrance to Dan Albone car park, if this is acceptable they will apply for Lottery Funding.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council request more information before a decision is made.

d. Central Bedfordshire Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Correspondence was received from CBC introducing the above Strategy and to ask for Town Councils help in providing key information that is needed.

They are in early stages and have provided a short Briefing Note describing the background to this important study, and to summarise, the Strategy will:

- Build on earlier related studies;
- Improve in-depth understanding of flood risk across Central Bedfordshire and; and
- Identify how those risks may be better managed in a way that enhances the natural and built environment

The questionnaire can be found at:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/surveys/floodstrategy/flooding - responses need to be submitted by **11 January 2013**.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this be noted.

e. Draft Biggleswade Green Wheel Greenspace Masterplan

A copy of the Green Wheel Consultation Summary and questionnaire are attached to this agenda.

Members are asked to complete the questionnaire and submit by **28 December 2012**. Alternatively, it can be viewed and completed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council submit any comments by 28 December.

f. Replacement Play equipment for Watkin Walk, Biggleswade

Members were asked to approve the attached quotation for replacement play equipment for Watkin Walk.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that members approved the quotation.

g. Development of a memorial safety policy

Members were asked to consider the development and introduction of a memorial safety policy.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council agree to the introduction of a memorial safety policy and that a draft copy would be presented to PLOS committee to approve.

h. Biggleswade Town Bowls Club

Correspondence was received from Chrissie King, who was elected Secretary for the Bowls Club Management Committee at their AGM on Sunday 2 December 2012.

During this meeting it was decided that they should make the six rinks that they use Non-Smoking, although smoking will be permitted on the banks and surrounding areas. They are asking for Town Councils support by making the same ruling for Rink 7 thus keeping continuity throughout.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Town Council agree to this request.

Cllr Mrs J Lawrence abstained.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Drove Road Cemetery Chapel Works

Works commenced at Drove Road Chapel on 3rd December 2012.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this be noted.

b. Removal of Play Equipment Grasmere

The waterlogged conditions have continued to cause difficulty in removing the play equipment, safety surfacing and foundations at Grasmere.

The majority of play equipment and surfacing has now been removed, but the waterlogged conditions have prevented further work to remove the foundations and reinstate the site to grass.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this be noted.

8. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

9. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be moved that is advisable in the public interest that the Public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 Committee **Resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.